



NEWS RELEASE

Texas Animal Health Commission

"Serving Texas Animal Agriculture Since 1893"

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TAHC Employee Receives Technology and Innovation Award

AUSTIN, TX – Mark Carter, Executive Assistant for Animal Health Programs at the Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC), received the Technology and Innovation Award for the TAHC ArcGIS Collector Application at the annual Emergency Management Association of Texas (EMAT) conference, on Tuesday, February 9.

Carter was recognized for the development of the ArcGIS Collector Application and his innovative use of technology to improve local and state-level emergency management response.

In 2014, TAHC staff recognized the need for a more robust and efficient electronic method of collecting and sharing data related to animal disease outbreak response during the TAHC Cattle Fever Tick response in south Texas.

The ArcGIS Collector Application allows TAHC staff to input disease and response information to develop maps that capture real-time geospatial data, photographs, site, and animal-specific identification and data.

"The ability to create and share real-time interactive maps has proven invaluable for agency staff, response partners, and stakeholders in establishing a common operating picture and maintaining situational awareness during response activities," said Andy Schwartz, TAHC Interim Executive Director.

"Mark Carter's hard work, perseverance and collaboration with staff and response partners on a vital emergency management tool embodies what this agency is all about," said Dr. T.R. Lansford, Assistant Executive Director for Animal Health Programs at the TAHC. "We are proud of him and excited that he is a part of the TAHC team."

The application was field tested during Equine Piroplasmosis testing in May 2015. The resulting Collector Application has helped TAHC field inspectors deployed to the Cattle Fever Tick Eradication Program in south Texas since July 2015. A Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) application was developed and beta tested during an HPAI surveillance drill in southeast Texas in October 2015.



TAHC Program Specialist, Mark Carter, left, receives award from Jeb Lacey, EMAT Board President, at the 2016 EMAT Conference.

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